

PATENT
Serial No. 10/058,730
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of July 25, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application and entry of the present amendment are respectfully requested.

Due to a clerical error, the claims included in the Amendment mailed on July 7, 2005, do not incorporate the amendments to claims 1, 9, 13-18 and 25-27 made by the Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently with the present Application on January 30, 2002. The claims included in the present Amendment reflect the changes made to claims 1, 9, 13-18 and 25-27 by the Preliminary Amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-13 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(2) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,594,629 (Basu). Further, claims 5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Basu. In addition, claims 14-17 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Basu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,640 (Basu 2). In response, claims 1 and 18 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-27 are patentable over Basu and Basu 2 for at least the following reasons.

Basu and Basu 2 are directed to methods and apparatus for audio-visual speaker recognition and utterance verification, where

PATENT

Serial No. 10/058,730

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visual information, such as lip movement, is used to detect speech intended to be decoded to increase robustness of the speech recognition base only on audio information, as recited on column 2, lines 28-29, and column 15, lines 24-27 of Basu. Basu also teaches to use video information alone, or in combination with audio information, for speech detection. Basu 2 is concerned with using visual information to allow "a much faster speaker identification than possible with acoustic information alone" as recited on column 2, lines 14-15. (Emphasis added) Column 4, lines 14-15 also recite:

The invention is able to locate and track a face and, more particularly, a mouth and/or other facial features, to determine what is relevant visual information to be used in more accurately identifying and/or verifying the speaker.
(Emphasis added)

Basu and Basu 2, alone or in combination do not teach or suggest the following recitation in independent claim 18, which is also similarly recited in independent claim 1:

activating the automatic speech recognizer in response to the detected acoustic energy having a spectrum associated with speech utterances while the speaker is facing a predetermined direction.
(Emphasis added)

This feature provides substantial benefits, such as not activating the voice recognizer when the speaker turns away from the pre-determined direction, e.g., turns away from the microphone,

PATENT

Serial No. 10/058,730

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of July 25, 2005

camera or audience for example, and talks to a third person, where the speaker does not desire the voice recognizer to recognize such a conversation with the third person, as illustratively described in paragraph [28] spanning pages 13-14.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 18 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-17 and 19-27 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 18, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the dependent claims.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position as well as the right to introduce relevant secondary considerations including long-felt but unresolved needs in the industry, failed attempts by others to invent the invention, and the like, should that become necessary.


PATENT

Serial No. 10/058,730

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of July 25, 2005

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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